

begin bilateral discussions with the exporting countries currently responsible for the disruptions in the US steel market, with a goal towards establishing voluntary export limitations, similar to those which the European Union has had in place with its East European trading partners.

EXERCISE LEVERAGE

Our trade negotiators should use every possible forum to alert our trading partners to the nature and depth of injury their policies are causing the US steel industry.

US trade negotiators should warn of potentially severe steel import limitations emanating from trade cases, and suggest that offending governments and their industries take immediate action to alleviate US market disruptions.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Mr. Chairman, and the other Members of the Steel Caucus, we would like to express our appreciation for the concurrent resolution you intend to introduce "calling on the President to take all necessary measures to respond to the surge of steel imports." We shall urge the Members of Congress in those states and districts in which our member companies have plants to support this resolution. In addition, we urge the Congressional Steel Caucus to press the Administration to initiate bilateral discussions with the countries that have caused this problem, in order to provide us with some potential for prompt relief.

Thank you for your continuing support and for the opportunity to address the Congressional Steel Caucus on this urgent matter.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce my support of House Resolution 598, introduced by Mr. TRAFICANT. I am pleased that today Members have an opportunity to vote on a tough, reasonable House Resolution addressing this issue.

The leadership has been negotiating almost around the clock with the Clinton administration on the budget, so I appreciate their attention to this also very important matter of aiding the U.S. steel industry.

With all the budget talks going on, why have we members of the Congressional Steel Caucus pressed so hard for a vote on steel in these last days of the session? It is because the U.S. steel industry is in a crisis. It is too late to make leisurely proposals as if we were addressing a problem of the future. The problem is NOW; orders to U.S. steel companies are at 50% of normal NOW; families are out of work NOW.

Some oppose a one-year ban on certain foreign steel products and say that such an action is too strong. Consider these two facts: (1) U.S. companies wishing to file a trade petition about dumping must first spend six months gathering data so that their case will be taken seriously; (2) there is approximately six months of foreign steel currently piled up in ports from Alabama to Maryland to Ohio.

Voting yes on this resolution is the very least we should do as Members of Congress to help a U.S. industry which is unfairly being sacrificed in the name of global stability. I have said before and say again—it is wrong to kill U.S. jobs for the purpose of keeping afloat foreign governments and economies.

The U.S. steel industry has streamlined and modernized. No one can compete against unfair, below production-cost prices. This resolution is similar to my bill H.R. 4762, and I commend Mr. TRAFICANT on his long-term leadership on this issue. Vote yes on this resolution to urge President Clinton to take immediate action. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, let us be clear, the government of South Korea provided Hanbo Steel with a \$6 billion subsidy to continue producing steel. Hanbo is producing the same steel that sits in our ports and results in American steel workers losing their jobs.

Its time we stand up for steel. If the South Koreans protect their workers at our expense, why do we stand back and allow them to continue this illegal act. It is an abomination. This has nothing to do with free trade and whether you support increased trade. This issue is about how we react when other nations take advantage of our strong economy and our market.

Its time to take a stand. I urge all members to support this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of H. Res. 598, I rise to speak in favor of the passage of this resolution, which expresses the sense of the House that provisions of the Trade and Tariff act of 1930 must be vigorously enforced.

We all know that several regions of the world are currently suffering from tremendous economic turmoil. Specifically, East Asia, Russia, and South America have all suffered catastrophic fiscal upheavals causing government and industry to take drastic action to save what little money they have.

One of the actions that countries such as Russia and Brazil have taken is to flood our markets with cheap imports. Those imports include steel, which has had a drastic effect on our industry here at home. Just this year, steel imports from Asia have increased 70%, and Russian importers are enjoying their highest-ever level of steel exports to the United States. The result is that the steel industry here at home has been forced to lower their prices in order to compete—20% in the last three months.

This resolution tries to remedy the situation by asking the government to vigorously enforce treaties that govern this type of trade, such as the Trade and Tariff Act of 1930. Although I am sympathetic to the plight of those countries, we must still vigorously enforce our laws to avoid desuetude and the entrenchment of a policy that does us substantial more harm than good.

H. Res. 598 also calls on the Administration to immediately review, for a period of ten days, the import of hot-rolled steel products into the United States from Japan, Russia, Brazil and numerous other countries that have been accused of dumping. This review would help us collect information that will affirm or deny whether or not these countries have been undercutting our industry.

To further enhance our understanding of the problem, the resolution also asks the Administration to establish a task force which would further investigate our importation practices, as they relate to steel, and verify whether or not our current trade agreements, treaties, and laws are being violated in any way. I applaud this effort, because it provides us with another resource for getting reliable information that is necessary for our assessment of the national economy.

Lastly, the resolution asks the Administration to provide us with a report, early next year, detailing what steps should be taken to ensure the enforcement of our laws and the protection of our steel industry. Hopefully, this report can be used to start a bipartisan and cooperative relationship with the Administra-

tion that can be used to make better foreign policy decisions for the benefit of all of our industries.

While we do live in a global economy, we are still a nation of laws—laws that must be respected and enforced by all who encounter them. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution and the American worker.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, the Chair will now put the question on the pending motion, and then each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Resolution 598, the pending motion;

S. 1733, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 700, concurring in the Senate amendment, de novo;

H.R. 4829, de novo;

S. 2272, de novo;

S. 2133, de novo; and

S. 1132, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF LEGISLATION TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES ON TODAY

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania (during consideration of H. Res. 598). Mr. Speaker, Pursuant to House Resolution 589, I hereby give notice of the following suspension to be considered today:

H.R. 2204, Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1997.

REGARDING STEEL IMPORTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is question is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 598.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 598.

The question was taken.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 345, nays 44, not voting 45, as follows:

[Roll No. 532]

YEAS—345

Abercrombie	Baker	Bartlett
Aderholt	Baldacci	Bass
Andrews	Barcia	Bateman
Bachus	Barrett (NE)	Becerra
Baesler	Barrett (WI)	Bentsen